



CEEE Honors Kylee Holliday with 2026 Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award

The University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE) is proud to announce **Mrs. Kylee Holliday** as the recipient of the **2026 Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year Award (RKC Award)**. This distinguished honor recognizes a Delaware educator who demonstrates sustained excellence and leadership in advancing personal finance education through teaching, professional learning, and program development.

The RKC Award celebrates educators who equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions and build long-term financial confidence. Mrs. Holliday exemplifies this mission through her impactful instruction, statewide leadership, and deep commitment to ensuring all students have access to meaningful personal finance education.

Making Personal Finance Real and Relevant for Students

In the classroom, Mrs. Holliday transforms personal finance into an engaging, real-world learning experience. She designs instruction around the financial decisions students are already making or will soon face, including budgeting, saving, credit, investing, and life after graduation. Through simulations, projects, and discussion-based learning, she helps students practice decision-making in authentic contexts.

Her approach emphasizes both relevance and honesty, creating a classroom environment where students can openly explore financial realities and build confidence in their decision-making. As she explains, *"Personal finance is more than a course requirement; it's about giving students a sense of control, helping them understand their options, and showing them that their choices, both today and in the future, matter."*

The impact of her teaching extends beyond the classroom. Students have applied their learning in meaningful ways, from helping families open savings accounts to beginning early investing and filing taxes. One former student shared years later that taking her class had made a lasting

difference in his financial and professional life, an example of the enduring impact of her instruction.

Leadership, Advocacy, and Impact in Financial Literacy Education

Mrs. Holliday has played a pivotal role in expanding access to financial literacy across the Red Clay Consolidated School District and beyond. She led efforts to extend financial literacy coursework to all district high schools and developed a financial literacy mini-unit embedded in ninth-grade economics, ensuring all students receive foundational instruction early in their learning journey.

Beyond curriculum development, she is a key leader in professional learning sessions and educator support. Mrs. Holliday regularly facilitates training sessions and conference presentations for district, state, and CEEE-led initiatives. Her work includes updates to the *Keys to Financial Success* curriculum and multi-session training for secondary educators.

At the state level, she has also been a strong advocate for strengthening financial literacy education requirements, helping elevate the importance of personal finance instruction in policy discussions. Her leadership and impact have been recognized beyond Delaware as well, including an invitation to contribute a chapter to a forthcoming college-level financial literacy textbook, reflecting her standing as a respected voice in the field who connects classroom practice to broader educational and real-world financial understanding.

A Lasting Commitment to Student Success

Across her work as a teacher, curriculum leader, and advocate, Mrs. Holliday consistently demonstrates a belief that personal finance education empowers students to take control of their futures. Her instruction, leadership, and advocacy reflect a deep commitment to ensuring students not only learn financial concepts but also apply them in ways that shape their lives beyond the classroom.

CEEE proudly congratulates Mrs. Holliday on being named the **2026 Ronni K. Cohen Personal Finance Educator of the Year** and celebrates her extraordinary contributions to advancing financial literacy for students across Delaware.